REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending and at issue in the application with claims 1 and 25 being independent claims. Claims 1 and 25 have been amended. Each of claims 1-46 recites a system or method for automatically taking corrective measures within a process plant that receives data pertaining to a process plant device, automatically generates an order in response to a detected problem with the device and communicates the order. The recited order relates to taking one or more corrective measures to solve the problem.

APPLICANTS' INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On November 10, 2004, the applicants' attorney Aaron M. Peters (Reg. No. 48,801) conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner Crystal J. Barnes in which independent claims 1 and 25 were discussed. During that interview Examiner Barnes indicated that the rejections against claims 1 and 25, and all claims dependent thereon, would be allowable upon entry of the amendments, subject to an updated search. Thus, agreement was reached with respect to all the claims.

The Examiner agreed during the interview that Liang does not disclose or suggest receiving data pertaining to the status of a process plant device and automatically generating an order to take a corrective measure in response to a detected problem with the device. While Liang discloses a system and method for managing the health of a server (104, 122) on a data network (100, 120) (Col. 3, ln. 41-43), the server (104, 122) is not a process plant device.

In particular, the Examiner agreed that the servers (104, 122) of Liang are not the recited process plant device. The server (104) on the network (100) relates to a server for an Internet business (e.g., Ebay, Amazon) which stores hypermedia information to facilitate online transactions with users. (Col. 4, ln. 18-23). The server (122) on the private network (120) relates to a server for a corporate network which securely stores information. Although a monitoring server (114) monitors the status of the servers (104, 122) (Col. 4, ln. 37-53) and takes necessary measures if a status condition for the server is critical (Col. 5, ln. 31-39), neither the network (100) nor the private network (120) relate to a process plant. As such, neither the server (104) nor the server (122) is a process plant device. Thus, the Examiner and the Applicants' attorney agreed that Liang does not disclose or suggest a process plant device as recited by claims 1-46.

Applicants gratefully appreciate the Examiner's assistance in helping to bring this application in condition for allowance. As such, amended independent claims 1 and 25 are believed to be in allowable form, as indicated by the Examiner. Further, dependent claims 2-24 and 26-46, which are dependent upon the aforementioned independent claims are also submitted to be in allowable form. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned at the indicated number.

Respectfully submitted,

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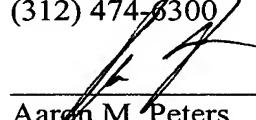
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November 15, 2004